

Reps. Lemmons, III, Lemmons, Jr., Accavitti, Adamini, Anderson, Baxter, Bieda, Brandenburg, Brown, Byrnes, Byrum, Caul, Cheeks, Clack, Clemente, Condino, Dillon, Farrah, Garfield, Gonzales, Gosselin, Hildenbrand, Hopgood, Jones, Kehrl, Kolb, Kooiman, Kathleen Law, Leland, Mayes, Meisner, Miller, Murphy, Pearce, Polidori, Sak, Alma Smith, Spade, Stahl, Tobocman, Vagnozzi and Waters offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 126.

A resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of the Motown Historical Museum.

Whereas, The year 2005 marks the 20th anniversary of the Motown Historical Museum. The Motown Historical Museum chronicles the unprecedented proliferation of Detroit based genius and talent which reshaped the world's musical landscape. The Motown sound is inextricably linked to the 1960's decade of social change and creative freedom; and

Whereas, The Motown Historical Museum is a wonderful public relation bonanza, for both Detroit and Michigan. With an international appeal, nearly a fourth of its 40,000 annual visitors are foreign nationals. The Museum is an institutional symbol of the world class creativity, character, and professionalism. These traits propelled a fledgling Motown Records into a virtual powerhouse of timeless and classic music. The global proportions of the respect and admiration accorded the Motown phenomenon can hardly be overstated, as Motown Music has become synonymous with the 1960's decade. Any movie or television show with a 1960's theme, must have a soundtrack replete with the Motown Sound, for authenticity; and

Whereas, The Motown Historical Museum was founded April 16, 1985, at 2648 West Grand Boulevard, in Detroit, Michigan. The site of the museum is the two adjacent homes which served as the business office, and recording studio of Motown Records in its prolific formative years. The legendary Studio A is housed in one of the homes dubbed Hitsville by Motown's founder, Berry Gordy Jr. The music which reverberated from Studio A captured the imagination of millions world-wide. Many of Motown's musical stars have achieved iconic status in the cultural history of America. A partial listing of the Motown pantheon of musical luminaries includes: Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The Temptations, Smoky Robinson and the Miracles, and Martha and the Vandellas; and

Whereas, The Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Motown Historical Museum is the remarkable big sister of Berry Gordy Jr., Esther Gordy Edwards. This visionary leader was an integral part of Motown Records' brain trust from its inception. Initially, Mrs. Edwards oversaw Motown's finances with the expert assistance of her husband, George Edwards, a certified public accountant, and Michigan state representative. Before serving as Motown's Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, the versatile Esther Gordy Edwards went on to manage and direct the careers of many top Motown stars as the head of the International Talent Management Incorporated. Over the years, Mrs. Edwards has led Motown's Art Department, Detroit based operations, and the charitable Gordy Foundation; and

Whereas, The Motown Historical Museum is a direct result of Esther Gordy Edwards' prescient creativity. Mrs. Edwards had foresight to collect memorabilia and artifacts from the beginning of Motown in 1959. The world of music history and its admirers are the fortunate beneficiaries of Mrs. Edwards' largesse. For the past twenty years, Esther has been the standard bearer of the Motown Legacy; and

Whereas, The Motown Historical Museum forges mutually beneficial relationships with community based entities, such as: the Detroit Historical Museum, selected public schools, and the Mosaic Youth Theatre; and

Whereas, In 1987, the Motown Historical Museum achieved the designation as an official Michigan Historic Site; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House Representatives, That the members of this legislative body honor and applaud, one of Michigan's finest cultural institutions, the Motown Historical Museum, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be circulated throughout Michigan, and to the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Historical Museum.